April Edition

American Red Cross

YOUTHWIRE

Impact Starts Here

Latest from the National Youth Council

Thanks a
bunch!

This April, we celebrate National Volunteer Month, a time to recognize the compassion, dedication, and impact of volunteers across the country. Volunteers are invited to share the moments that inspire them, and supporters can make a gift to help power their work.

Visit redcross.org/CelebrateVolunteers to get involved and show your support.

Apply to the National Youth Council

Are you ready to take your Red Cross journey to the next level?

The American Red Cross National Youth Council (NYC) is the highest level of youth leadership within the Red Cross, bringing together passionate youth volunteers from across the country who work to strengthen youth engagement and represent the voice of Red Cross youth at a national level. Council members collaborate with regions nationwide, help shape youth initiatives, and support projects that expand opportunities for young volunteers across the organization.
Through leadership, service, and collaboration, Council members help advance the mission of the Red Cross while empowering the next generation of humanitarian leaders.

Eligibility Requirements

- 16–22 years old by July 1, 2026
- 2 years active in Volunteer Connection by July 1, 2026
- Minimum of 20 hours logged in Volunteer Connection in the last twelve months
- Held a leadership role within the Red Cross
- Available to serve on the NYC from July 1, 2026–July 31, 2028
- Commits to serving an average of 10-15 hours per month

To learn more about the National Youth Council, sign up to chat with a Council member, and review information on how to apply, click here.

National Youth Council Annual Meeting—Recap

Back in February, all 16 members of the National Youth Council and our advisors came together in Washington, D.C. to reflect on our programming efforts since the start of our terms, revisit our personal and professional growth goals, reconnect as a team, and brainstorm ways to strengthen our processes and structures to better engage passionate youth and young adult volunteers across the country. Our meeting was cut short due to a snowstorm in D.C., but it was still a memorable few days in person. We all returned home with renewed energy, shared purpose, and excitement for the work ahead—and we cannot wait to continue serving and celebrating our incredible volunteers.

Become a Water Safety Champion with Longfellow's WHALE Tales!

American Red Cross
Be water smart!
Longfellow

This summer, make a splash in your community by helping others stay safer in, on and around the water! Longfellow’s WHALE Tales is a fun and engaging way for youth to teach water safety skills to kids kindergarten through 5th grade. Through short, memorable lessons and activities, WHALE Tales helps kids understand how to make smart choices whether they’re at the pool, the beach, or enjoying water activities at home.

As a Red Cross Youth volunteer, you can play a powerful role in sharing these lifesaving messages. Leading WHALE Tales sessions builds confidence, strengthens leadership skills, and creates a safer community—one lesson at a time.

Want to learn how to get started? Join us on May 7, 2026 for a special Crash Course Call! We’ll walk through the WHALE Tales program, show you how to lead sessions, and share tips for creating fun, interactive experiences for kids.

Renew Your Red Cross Club

Club leaders and sponsors received an email on April 1 to renew their Red Cross Club for the 2026–2027 school year. If you or your fellow club officers did not receive the email, you can access the Club Renewal through your club’s Groupshare on Volunteer Connection.

Renewing your club in Volunteer Connection takes **less than 5 minutes**, and you can update your club officers’ names **anytime between now and the start of next school year.** We’re excited to see your club continue on for another amazing year!

Provide a meal with meaning!

MEALS
WITH MEANING
Text MEALS to 90999

Some meals are better shared. When disaster strikes, the Red Cross is there to provide immediate relief, offering safe shelter, nourishing meals, health services, comfort and more. This April, you can support disaster relief efforts by sharing your go-to comfort meal on social media and encouraging your friends and family to donate. Together, we can provide #MealsWithMeaning. Provide a Meal With Meaning today!

Allyship in Action is Back—let’s show up together.

Allyship in Action.
Beyond the Surface:
Empowered Resilience
Brought to you by the
American Red Cross Resource Groups

Allyship in Action returned on April 2, and it’s bigger than ever. Now in its fifth year, this month-long series brings together Red Cross youth and volunteers for powerful conversations, interactive events, and real ways to grow as leaders and allies.

This year’s theme, Beyond the Surface: Empowered Resilience, challenges us to go deeper—learning how to support communities beyond our own experiences while building stronger, more connected spaces. From storytelling and self-care to karaoke, trivia, and global impact events, there’s something for everyone to plug into.

Whether you join one session or the whole series, your voice matters. This is your chance to learn, connect, and take action.

Check out the full calendar and register through OneSource, we’ll see you here.

Blood Donors Needed

Plant seeds of hope.
Give blood.
gift card
$15

You can plant seeds of hope for patients in need by donating lifesaving blood this spring! Schedule your blood, platelet or AB Elite plasma donation today.

When you come to give blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma April 13–30, you’ll receive a $15 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice.

Volunteer Spotlight

Siddhi Singhania

Siddhi—Youth & Young Adult Engagement Lead and Senior Engagement Specialist Volunteer Partner for the Connecticut & Rhode Island Region. Discover Siddhi's Red Cross impact here.

Marion Bahm

Marion—Former President of the Mira Loma High School Red Cross Club, Chair of the Gold Country Youth Executive Board, and 2024 International IHL Summit Advocate. Discover Marion's Red Cross impact here.

Club Spotlight

Jericho High School

The Jericho High School Red Cross Club in Jericho, New York, serves its community by supporting those in need through service projects, fundraising initiatives, and community partnerships. Discover their impact here.

SLAM Apollo

The SLAM Apollo Red Cross Club in Apollo Beach, Florida empowers students through service, preparedness, and community engagement. Discover their impact here.

Every Red Cross volunteer and Red Cross Club carries a story shaped by service, leadership and community impact. Know a volunteer or a club that has positively influenced you or your community? Nominate them today so we can help highlight the work that deserves to be recognized and celebrated.

Other Youth and Young Adult Stories

- Most students join a club. Youth volunteer Kat Bowman built one from scratch. | American Red Cross Central & Southern Ohio Region
- Ahead of Valentine's Day, High School Youth Clubs throughout the Central Valley wrote heartfelt cards to veterans and their families. | American Red Cross Central California Region
- Our Youth Volunteers of the Quarter, Hayden & Lilah, have already completed 60+ hours combined in just one quarter. Thank you for everything you do. | American Red Cross Stuttgart Station

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WHAT IS YOUTHWIRE?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions! We always want to highlight great stories and hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what's new for you!
Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org.

Get Social and Share!
Share YouthWire with your peers and invite them to subscribe.

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!
Make it count! Remember to log your hours.

If you no longer wish to receive YouthWire, click here to unsubscribe

Subscribe | **Contact Us** | **Privacy Policy** | **View in browser**

Staying in touch via the American Red Cross email list is the best way we have of keeping in regular contact with supporters like you, letting you know about how you can protect yourself and your loved ones from disasters and other emergencies, and how you can support our lifesaving work.

Click here to unsubscribe from our list, but please know that if you leave, it will be harder for you to stay involved with the Red Cross and continue the work of which you've been such a critical part. It is only because of supporters like you that the Red Cross is able to respond when a disaster strikes or a home is impacted by fire, when someone needs CPR or a lifesaving blood transfusion, or when a family needs to contact a deployed service member in an emergency. And we don't want to lose you! Thanks for your support!

Please do not reply to this email as we are not able to respond to messages sent to this address.

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Donate by phone: **1-800-HELP NOW** 1-800-435-7669) | **Donate by Mail.**

Help people affected by disasters big and small.
A gift of any size supports all of the urgent humanitarian needs of the American Red Cross.
Prepare, respond and help families recover from home fires.
Your gift will help ensure that those who serve our country have our unwavering support.

The Red Cross is proud that an average of 90 cents of every dollar we spend is invested in delivering care and comfort to those in need.